



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 10, 1997

H.R. 1271 **FAA Research, Engineering, and Development** **Authorization Act of 1997**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
on November 4, 1997*

SUMMARY

H.R. 1271 would authorize the appropriation of \$229.7 million for fiscal year 1998 for the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA's) research, engineering, and development program. In addition, the bill would revise the program to include grants for researchers and students at undergraduate institutions.

Enacting H.R. 1271 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. H.R. 1271 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amount and continued spending at historical rates for previously appropriated funds, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1271 would result in discretionary spending totaling about \$400 million over the 1998-2000 period. Of that three-year total, about \$170 million in outlays would be attributable to appropriations provided before 1998. Of the \$230 million that H.R. 1271 would authorize, \$199 million has already been appropriated in Public Law 105-66. For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that additional appropriations of \$31 million would be provided for fiscal year 1998 to reach the total authorization level contained in H.R. 1271.

In addition to reauthorizing the research, engineering, and development program, H.R. 1271 would establish a program of research grants. Of the total authorization, the legislation would

allow FAA to use \$750,000 for grants to researchers and students at undergraduate institutions.

The estimated budgetary impact is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 400 (transportation).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority ^a	187	199	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	230	230	107	32	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	31	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	0	18	9	3	0	0
Spending Under H.R. 1271						
Authorization Level	187	230	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	230	248	116	35	0	0

a. The 1997 and 1998 levels are the amounts appropriated for those years.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

The legislation would authorize \$229.7 million for the Federal Aviation Administration's research, engineering, and development programs for fiscal year 1998. Of that total, \$750,000 would be set aside for a new program of research grants for undergraduate institutions.

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR

This legislation would impose no new private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On April 18, 1997, CBO provided a cost estimate for H.R. 1271, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on April 16, 1997. The version of H.R. 1271 approved by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation would reauthorize the FAA research, engineering, and development program for a period of only one year whereas the House version would reauthorize the program for three years (1998 through 2000). In addition, the authorization level for 1998 in the Senate version is \$13 million higher than the level contained in the House version. Finally, this estimate reflects FAA appropriations that have been recently enacted.

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